

DOCUMENT NO. 36

Approved For Release 2002/08/28 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000200050028-0

NO CHANGE IN CLASS

CLASSIFICATION: TS S C

DATE: 1-380

AUTH: 02010

REVIEWER: []

NSC BRIEFING

31 March 1954

THE MILITARY SITUATION IN NORTH VIETNAM

I. []

II. Viet Minh preparations apparently ready.

- A. Trenches within 50 yards.
- B. Isabelle virtually surrounded.
- C. Entrenchment system greater than previous ones at

Gabrielle and Beatrice.

D. ~~Build up in~~ ^{SHIFT TO} close in artillery and mortar positions.

III. Navarre suggests possibility of "smothering action."

- A. Continued harassment of French strongpoints.
- B. ~~Major effort to knock out air support, deny supplies.~~ ^{EMPHASIS ON DENYING USE OF AIR STRIPS & RESUPPLY - EVACUATION OF WOUNDED.}

IV. [] 13,000 enemy reinforcements on way.

- A. Presumably recent recruits.
- B. Would bring total to 47,500.

V. Viet Minh continuing movement of supplies

DOCUMENT NO.

NO CHANGE IN CLASS

CLASSIFICATION: TS S C

DATE: 1-380

AUTH: 02010

REVIEWER: []

DATE: 1-380

REVIEWER: []

[]

VI. Evacuation of French wounded serious problem.

- A. Daily rate of wounded -- 70; some locally treated.
- B. Backlog of urgent cases now 90.
- C. Safe passage for aircraft improbable.
- D. Navarre says "will not yield even with 3,000 casualties."

DIA review(s) completed.

Approved For Release 2002/08/28 : CIA-RDP79R00890A000200050028-0

~~SECRET~~

- 2 -

- VII. Our service attachés estimated on 26 March that French could hold.
- A. Strength-wise and defensively, French in good position.
 - B. Air capability most important, therefore weather is important factor.
- VIII. In Tonkin delta, all major enemy units now infiltrated.
- A. Regular strength estimated at 20,000, compared with recent 13,000.
 - B. In addition, 55,000 irregulars.
 - C. Haiphong-Hanoi lines of communication have been major target.
 - D.
 - E. Ambushes are daily routine.
 - F. Intensified guerrilla and sabotage tactics are expected.

25X1

~~SECRET~~